

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 6107

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN TALKS

REF: KABUL 4777

1. OUR CONCLUSION AFTER TALKING OVER PRESENT STATE OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS AND OTHERS HERE, IS THAT WHILE GOP PRO-FESSES TO BE INTERESTED IN TALKS WITH AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, LATEST SERIES OF OFFERS WAS MADE WITH NO EXPECTATION OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM GOA. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT GOA IS ONLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING ITS PUSHTUNITAN DEMANDS, COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR TALKS FROM GOP VIEWPOINT. THEY NOTE THAT THERE IS NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW IN THE OVERTURES MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BORDER PROVINCES OTHER THAN NOVELTY OF "SIMLA-TYPE AGREEMENT" LABEL. WHILE THEY STOP SHORT OF INSISTING THAT TALKS COULD BE HELD ONLY ON PRECONDITION OF GOA RECOGNITION OF DURAND LICE AND PLEDGE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS ON PAKISTAN SIDE OF

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THAT BOUNDARY, IT SEEMS CLEAR IN TALKING TO THEM THAT GOP WOULD

BE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN TALKS ONLY IF THERE WAS
PROSPECT OF AT LEAST TACIT AFGHAN ACCEPTANCE OF THESE PRINCIPLES.
THEY BELIEVE THAT NO SUCH PROSPECT IS IN SIGHT.

2. WE OURSELVES QUESTION WHETHER ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
WOULD BE ACHIEVED EVEN WERE TALKS AT WORKING LEVEL OR ELSE-
WHERE TO BE INITIATED. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES
APPEAR SO FUNDAMENTAL AND CONFLICTING AIMS SEEM SO INTRINSIC
TO THE BASIC POLITICAL PROGRAMS OF EACH GOVERNMENT THAT DEAD-
LOCK WOULD SEEM TO US THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME. SUCH A DEADLOCK
ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES MIGHT WELL RESULT IN THE MORE NEGOTIABLE
PAK-AFGHAN DIFFERENCES BECOMING CASUALTIES OF THE DISCUSSION
RATHER THAN BENEFICIARIES.
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